

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing RF shielding for a nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) apparatus comprising a substantially cylindrical NMR magnet configured for an NMR procedure, comprising:

placing a patient on a radio-opaque holder having a rigid surface defining an opening at a magnet end that substantially matches an opening defined by a patient-end surface of the NMR magnet;

adjoining the rigid surface of the holder to the patient-end surface of the NMR magnet so that the rigid surface abuts against the patient-end surface and electrically couples to a radio-opaque portion of a cryostat of the NMR magnet, the NMR magnet comprising a service end adjoined to a radio-opaque covering that is electrically coupled to the cryostat, thereby forming

~~wherein, when the rigid surface of the holder abuts and adjoins to the patient-end surface of the NMR magnet, the radio-opaque covering, the radio-opaque portion of the cryostat, and the holder form~~ a substantially complete and substantially continuous RF shield operative to prevent RF signals from interfering with an NMR procedure conducted using the NMR magnet.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising placing the covering over the service end of the magnet.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the holder comprises a bottom portion comprising RF shielding~~ wherein the placing the patient on the holder comprises placing the patient on a holder comprising a bottom portion comprising RF shielding.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~[[13,]] wherein the holder further comprises a canopy comprising RF shielding wherein the placing the patient on the holder~~ comprises placing the patient on a holder comprising a canopy comprising RF shielding.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~[[13,]] wherein the holder further comprises a patient end cap comprising RF shielding wherein the placing the patient on the~~ holder comprises placing the patient on a holder comprising a patient end cap comprising RF shielding.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, ~~[[14,]] wherein the canopy removably attaches to the bottom portion wherein the placing the patient on the holder comprises~~ placing the patient on a holder comprising a canopy attached to the bottom portion of the holder.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~[[15,]] wherein the patient end cap removably attaches to the bottom portion or is integral to the bottom portion wherein the placing~~ the patient on the holder comprises placing the patient on a holder comprising a patient end cap removably attached to or integral to the bottom portion of the holder.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~[[15,]] wherein the patient end cap comprises apertures wherein the placing the patient on the holder comprises placing the patient~~ on a holder comprising a patient end cap comprising apertures.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~[[13,]] wherein the bottom portion comprises apertures wherein the placing the patient on the holder comprises placing the patient~~ on a holder comprising a bottom portion comprising apertures.

10-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein forming the substantially complete and continuous RF shield comprises combining an RF shield liner ~~configured to combine~~ with the service end cap and the holder.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein placing the patient on the holder comprises placing the patient on a holder comprising a means, attached to the holder, for positioning further comprising a positioning means attached to the holder.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, [[13,]] wherein placing the patient on the holder comprises placing the patient on a holder comprising a means, attached to the holder, for positioning the holder, comprising the positioning means comprises a support configured to support the holder and a means for locomotion.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein placing the patient on the holder comprises placing the patient on a holder comprising a means, attached to the holder, for positioning the holder, comprising a [[the]] means for locomotion comprising comprising wheels.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein placing the patient on the holder comprises placing the patient on a holder comprising a means, attached to the holder, for positioning the holder, comprising a [[the]] means for locomotion comprising comprising rollers.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein placing the patient on the holder comprises placing the patient on a [[the]] holder comprising further comprises a patient support unit.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein placing the patient on the holder comprises placing the patient on a [[the]] holder comprising further comprises a patient support unit comprising ~~comprising~~ an RF transmitter antenna and an RF receiver antenna.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, [[17,]] wherein placing the patient on the holder comprises placing the patient on a holder comprising a [[the]] patient support unit comprising ~~comprising~~ an RF coil.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~where~~ wherein placing the patient on the holder comprises placing an animal on the holder ~~the patient is an animal~~.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, [[20,]] wherein placing the patient on the holder comprises placing the patient on a holder comprising a [[the]] patient support unit comprising ~~comprising~~ a support configured to hold an animal.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~where~~ wherein placing the patient on the holder comprises placing a human on the holder ~~the patient is human~~.

23. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, [[22,]] wherein placing the patient on the holder comprises placing the patient on a holder comprising a [[the]] patient support unit comprising ~~comprising~~ a support configured to hold a human.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, [[21,]] wherein placing the patent on the holder comprises placing an animal on a holder comprising a support ~~the support is~~ adapted to hold the ~~the~~ [[an]] animal in an inverted position.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~[[24,]]~~ wherein placing the patient on the holder comprises placing the patient on a holder comprising a support having a cross section of the support is configured substantially to match the curvature of an animal's spine.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~[[25,]]~~ wherein placing the patient on the holder comprises placing the patient on a holder comprising a support having a substantially U-shaped cross section ~~a cross section of the support is substantially U-shaped.~~

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~[[25,]]~~ wherein placing the patient on the holder comprises placing the patient on a holder comprising a support having a substantially V-shaped cross section ~~a cross section of the support is substantially V-shaped.~~

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~[[21,]]~~ wherein placing the patient on the holder comprises placing an animal on a holder comprising a ~~[[the]]~~ patient support unit comprising comprising straps for holding the ~~[[an]]~~ animal.

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein placing the patient on the holder comprises plaing an animal on a holder ~~the holder~~ is configured to hold and support the body of the ~~[[an]]~~ animal ~~patient~~.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein placing the patient on the holder comprises placing the patient on a holder movable into and out of the magnet is ~~configured to remain stationary while a patient is moved wholly or partly into the cavity of the~~ magnet.

31-34. (Cancelled)